

America for decades to come; and the Inflation Reduction Act, which slashed prescription drug costs and lowered healthcare premiums, delivering the most consequential climate action in history and reducing the Federal deficit.

All of this progress can continue if we continue to work to legislate and not to perform for cameras and social media. To work for the American people is incumbent on us all—Democrats, Republicans, all of us—to work together to protect the health, security, and freedom of American families.

ANTI-SEMITISM: NEVER AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me, just for a start, say that hatred and discrimination against any marginalized community are wrong, whether it be an ethnic minority, LGBT, a person with a disability, and women and girls.

Today, I want to focus on something that is personal to me.

My family was blessed. My grandfather came over to this country from Poland just before the rise of Hitler, and he saved his brothers and sisters by bringing them over. Too many people were not so blessed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and start my comments by saying, “never again,” as I address the growing concern of anti-Semitism in my home State of Florida and across the country.

□ 1045

This rise in anti-Semitism is deeply concerning, particularly given the lessons of the Holocaust, where we lost 6 million Jews and millions of others who were murdered by the Nazis in one of the worst human atrocities in the history of the world. These were precious lives who were tortured, gassed, shot, and treated as less than human.

It is terrifying that we find ourselves today having to defend the fact that it even happened. So we say “never again” to remind the world that we just didn’t wake up one moment to gas chambers and genocide; it was a slow and deliberate effort, dehumanizing Jews and others, fomenting fear and normalizing extremism and prejudice.

Today, Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism is on the rise. Incidents of anti-Semitism reported—and this is just reported—to the Anti-Defamation League have risen by 34 percent in their last report. There were over 2,700 incidents that were reported in a year: Harassment, assaults, Molotov cocktails thrown at synagogues, defacing Jewish cemeteries, I could go on and on. The point is, it is clear that anti-Semitism is real.

In my own community in Palm Beach County, which is home to tens of thousands of Jews, this past January

there were Nazi symbols projected on buildings and hundreds and hundreds of anti-Semitic flyers thrown into the yards of people.

Mr. Speaker, I say what should we do? What must we do?

Combating anti-Semitism is everyone’s responsibility. There is something for all of us to do to promote a more inclusive and respectful society.

Let me just give a to-do list. It is not necessarily inclusive, but some things that we should all take to heart.

Believe it or not, a significant number of our young people don’t have any understanding of the Holocaust; and so, of course, education and awareness about the Holocaust and the history of anti-Semitism and the harm it causes, education is something that is very important.

All of us must speak out and condemn anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs, whether it is using your voice, your Facebook page, your Twitter, writing letters to the editor. If you see something, you must say something.

We should be working with our great partners across different sectors and levels of government to combat anti-Semitism and protect our Jewish communities, partners like the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, and many others.

We have to keep our houses of worship safe, not just synagogues, but churches and mosques. People must be free in this country to go to a house of worship and feel safe.

We must support the laws and policies that protect people and communities from discrimination, extremism, hate crimes, and improve hate crime reporting and prosecuting hate crimes.

Mr. Speaker, let me just refer to a magnificent hero in my community, Ben Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, who tells us that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task, a task we must all take up in words and actions.

Mr. Speaker, we must build bridges between different communities through dialogues and collaborations that can help to reduce prejudice and foster mutual respect, and it means standing against hatred aimed at other often marginalized groups.

And we must protect the safety and security of Israel, the homeland of 46 percent of the world’s Jews.

As I conclude my remarks, I want to highlight the story of Ben Ferencz, a magnificent hero from my community.

Ben, who at 103 years old, is the last living Nuremberg prosecutor and was recently bestowed the Congress’ highest honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.

As World War II engulfed Europe, after graduating from law school, Ben enlisted in the U.S. Army.

He was transferred to a unit responsible for gathering evidence of Nazi war crimes.

He later took that evidence to the chief Nuremberg prosecutor, and at 27 years old, Ben was appointed the lead prosecutor of the biggest murder trial in the history of the world

where he convicted 22 Nazi leaders for their roles in the deaths of over 1 million people.

Ben went on to spend his life pursuing peace and justice.

CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Biden administration to close the disposable e-cigarette loophole. I commend this administration’s work to curtail youth e-cigarette use. Youth usage of cigarettes and vaping is at a historic low, but the FDA’s guidance issued by the previous administration in January 2020 that prohibits flavored e-cigarettes does not apply to any of the disposable e-cigarette products currently on the market.

It is important to note that non-disposable products with cartridge inserts are already banned by the FDA, but the loophole on disposable e-cigarettes has allowed a surge in youth usage, according to the Centers for Disease Control 2022 National Youth Tobacco Study. The study shows that usage is up by 2,000 percent since 2019.

It is a dangerous oversight that can easily be fixed by closing the Trump-era loophole. Disposable e-cigarettes are single use. They are not meant to be refilled or recharged.

Right now, in smoke shops and corner stores around the country, you might see dozens of disposable e-cigarette products in flavors like iced apple mango, strawberry, pineapple, and even lemonade. These products are sleek, affordable, pocket-sized, and highly accessible to our youth.

The President can take immediate action by closing this Trump-era loophole. The future and safety of American youth depends on this.

REJECTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IS WRONG

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, last week Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’ administration blocked a new advanced placement African-American history course from being taught in Florida high schools, arguing that the course violates State law and is historically inaccurate.

The DeSantis administration’s rejection of the AP course is unfathomable, unsound, and unacceptable. Instead of improving and expanding on the quality of education for Florida high school students, this administration’s extreme agenda aims to roll back the clock by denying its students the right to explore the painful, complex, and rich history of African Americans in our country.

The rejection of this course is an attempt to erase from our memory the truth about how hate and bigotry has destroyed our Nation’s moral fabric and ushered in one of the darkest moments of United States history.

Governor Ron DeSantis claimed that he wants to protect students from

“woke indoctrination,” but what he really wants to do is to deny the truth by making bigoted relics and policies more digestible for future generations.

It is only when we acknowledge and learn from our past that we can embrace the present and confidently shape our future.

This blatant attack on the importance and value of African-American history and culture fails to move our States and our country forward. It is these theatrics and schemes by the GOP that cripple our Nation's growth and exemplify a poor reflection of who we are as a nation.

America's diversity is, in fact, its greatest strength, and every culture has to be respected and celebrated.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Intercede in our lives, O Lord, even as we offer prayers of intercession for others. While we offer our petitions and thanksgiving for our leaders and all who are in authority, with our voices we also pray for those who have no voice, for those who have no hope, and for those who don't know how or what to pray in the moments they are now enduring.

Hear our prayers for the individuals we know and name in our hearts who are grieving loss or suffering illness. For too many who are mute with pain and despair, may the prayers from our lips reach You on their behalf.

Hear our prayers for our communities and our country who are fractured by the tragedies of violence in all its forms. For the many cities and neighborhoods disrupted with animosity and distrust, may the prayers we offer together in this place bring forth a comity to be found only in You.

Hear our prayers for the war-torn countries around the world and for their citizens who suffer from abuses of power, the deprivation of religious liberties, and the brutal oppression of human rights. For these who are prohibited from praying, may our prayers be louder and stronger than the adversary who seeks to silence them.

You alone are sovereign, O God. May our faith be found righteous before You

that our prayers would be powerful and effective on behalf of Your people.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY'S WORLD CAMPUS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penn State University's World Campus on 25 years of online learning.

In 1998, Penn State World Campus launched its first online courses. Since then, those initial courses have expanded to more than 175 degrees and certificate programs, and almost 34,000 students have graduated with a Penn State degree they earned online.

Through the past 25 years, the leadership of World Campus has remained dedicated to helping students to reach their goals. The creation of World Campus allows students to find success in a flexible way. Students who wanted a Penn State degree but could not go to a campus have access to an extensive selection of associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs.

In fact, Penn State World Campus is ranked number five on Military Times "Best for Vets" list and named "Guard-Friendly" by the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud Penn State alumnus, the World Campus gives students of all backgrounds and ages the ability to be able to find success and join the extensive Penn State community.

Congratulations, Penn State World Campus, we can't wait to see what the next 25 years have in store.

We are.

RAISING THE NATION'S DEBT CEILING

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what has been and should always be a bipartisan issue, raising our Nation's debt ceiling.

Raising America's debt ceiling ensures we do not default on our financial obligations to those we have borrowed from and prevents economic catastrophe in the process. Don't take my word for it.

Listen to American businesses, economists, and financial institutions who know the drastic consequences a debt default would have for the U.S. economy and working Americans.

The business roundtable, which represents the CEOs of some of the Nation's largest companies, has said about raising the debt limit: "Failure to lift the Federal debt limit to meet U.S. obligations would produce an otherwise avoidable crisis and pose an unacceptable risk to the Nation's economic growth, job creation and financial markets."

If you don't want to take their word for it, I recommend heeding these words:

"The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate." Those are the words of President Ronald Reagan.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S PR STUNT TO TOUR SMALL BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Vice President traveled to North Carolina to tout the Biden administration's so-called accomplishments in helping our Nation's small businesses.

Well, the American people can see through the Vice President's PR stunt and know sky-high inflation, worker shortages, and supply chain disruptions are nothing to celebrate.

I have been a small business owner for 52 years and still am, and I know these economic headwinds job creators are facing firsthand.

The reality is small businesses are worse off due to this administration's disastrous policies and out-of-control Washington spending.

As the chairman of the Small Businesses Committee, I welcome anyone who wants to celebrate entrepreneurship and recognize our great small businesses.

However, no amount of media events will change the dire reality Main Street continues to experience under